

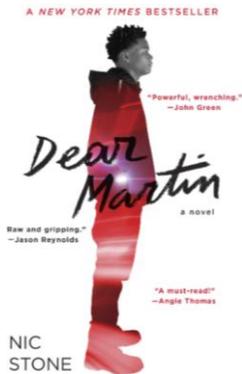
Catonsville High School: Summer/First Quarter Reading

During the next few months, students enrolled in **English** will be expected to complete the grade-appropriate assignment below. Students are encouraged to complete their reading during the summer as they will have assigned reading for the school year beginning in September. Prioritizing will allow students to complete the summer reading during the summer and avoid additional work during the school year. All students are to be prepared to participate in class discussions, submit critical reading activities, and/or demonstrate reading comprehension in other English class activities. AP students are expected to have their works ready immediately upon their return to school.

9th Grade Summer Reading Assignments

English 9 Standard & English 9 Honors – *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone

Directions: Read and take notes on *Dear Martin*. Notes should focus on how Justyce speaks up for himself and others. Students will be asked to show their understanding of the novel by the end of Q1.



Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. And despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out.

English 9GT – *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

Directions: Read and take notes on *The Hate U Give*. Notes should focus on the characters' struggles with and realizations of their own identity. Students will be asked to show their understanding of the novel by the end of Q1.



Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

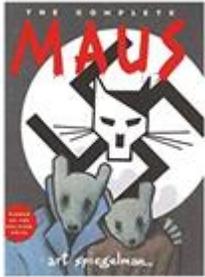
Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

10th Grade Summer Reading Assignments (Standard, Honors, and GT)

Directions: Students of all levels are expected to read widely this summer. Attached is a list of some suggested reading texts, all of which students will have a chance to study in more depth during the academic year. Students should read **ONE** of these texts and will be asked to show their understanding of that text by the end of quarter one.

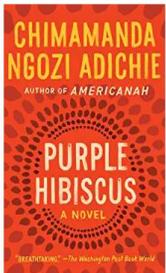
Option 2: *Maus* by Art Spiegelman



Combined for the first time here are *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale* and *Maus II* - the complete story of Vladek Spiegelman and his wife, living and surviving in Hitler's Europe. By addressing the horror of the Holocaust through cartoons, the author captures the everyday reality of fear and is able to explore the guilt, relief and

extraordinary sensation of survival - and how the children of survivors are in their own way affected by the trials of their parents. A contemporary classic of immeasurable significance.

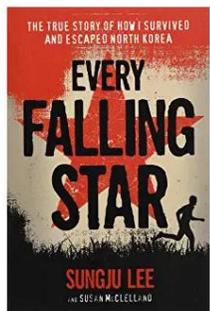
Option 4: *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Adichie



Fifteen-year-old Kambili and her older brother Jaja lead a privileged life in Enugu, Nigeria. They live in a beautiful house, with a caring family, and attend an exclusive missionary school. They're completely shielded from the troubles of the world. Yet, as Kambili reveals in her tender-voiced account, things are less perfect than they appear. Although her Papa is generous and well respected, he is fanatically religious and

tyrannical at home—a home that is silent and suffocating.

Option 6: *Every Falling Star* by Sungju Lee



Every Falling Star is the intense memoir of a North Korean boy named Sungju who is forced at age twelve to live on the streets and fend for himself. To survive, Sungju creates a gang and lives by thieving, fighting, begging, and stealing rides on cargo trains. Sungju richly re-creates his scabrous story, depicting what it was like for a boy alone to create a new family with his gang, his “brothers”; to be hungry and to

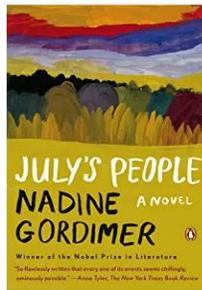
fear arrest, imprisonment, and even execution.

Option 1: *Red Scarf Girl* by Ji-Li Jiang



It's 1966, and twelve-year-old Ji-li Jiang has everything a girl could want: brains, popularity, and a bright future in Communist China. But it's also the year that China's leader, Mao Ze-dong, launches the Cultural Revolution—and Ji-li's world begins to fall apart. Over the next few years, people who were once her friends and neighbors turn on her and her family, forcing them to live in constant terror of arrest. And when Ji-li's father is finally imprisoned, she faces the most difficult dilemma of her life.

Option 3: *July's People* by Nadine Gordimer



For years, it had been what is called a “deteriorating situation.” Now all over South Africa the cities are battlegrounds. The members of the Smales family—liberal whites—are rescued from the terror by their servant, July, who leads them to refuge in his village. What happens to the Smaleses and to July—the shifts in character and relationships—gives us an unforgettable

look into the terrifying, tacit understandings and misunderstandings between blacks and whites.

Option 5: *Americanized* by Sara Saedi



At thirteen, bright-eyed, straight-A student Sara Saedi uncovered a terrible family secret: she was breaking the law simply by living in the United States. Only two years old when her parents fled Iran, she didn't learn of her undocumented status until her older sister wanted to apply for an after-school job, but couldn't because she didn't have a Social Security number.

Option 7: *Funny in Farsi* by Firoozeh Dumas



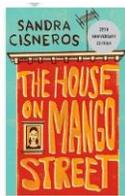
The American journey of Dumas's wonderfully engaging family: her engineer father, a sweetly quixotic dreamer who lost his job during the Iranian revolution; her elegant mother, who never fully mastered English (nor cared to); her uncle, who combated the effects of American fast food with an army of miraculous American weight-loss gadgets; and Firoozeh, who

encountered a second wave of culture shock when she met and married a Frenchman, becoming part of a one-couple melting pot.

11th Grade Summer Reading Assignments

English 11 Standard

Directions: Students should read **ONE** of these texts and will be asked to show their understanding of that text by the end of quarter one.



House on Mango Street
by Sandra Cisneros



March 1
by John Lewis



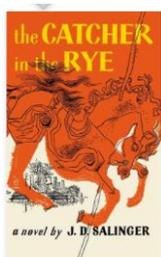
Podcast: *The Writer's Voice*
The New Yorker



Podcast: *LaVar Burton Reads*
LaVar Burton

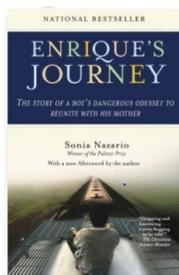
English 11 Honors

Directions: Read **ONE** book this summer from the list of options below. Students may read their selected text as an eBook or audiobook version, if preferred. During the first marking period, students will complete an assessment that evaluates their grasp of their selected books' plot, characters, and theme. Students are encouraged to annotate their selected text by highlighting or bookmarking important passages as they read.



Option 1: *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

The hero-narrator of *The Catcher in the Rye* is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. Through circumstances that tend to preclude adult, secondhand description, he leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days. The boy himself is at once too simple and too complex for us to make any final comment about him or his story. Perhaps the safest thing we can say about Holden is that he was born in the world not just strongly attracted to beauty but, almost, hopelessly impaled on it



Option 3: *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario

In this astonishing true story, award-winning journalist Sonia Nazario recounts the unforgettable odyssey of a Honduran boy who braves unimaginable hardship and peril to reach his mother in the United States.



Option 2: *Swing* by Kwame Alexander

Things usually do not go as planned for seventeen-year-old Noah. He and his best friend Walt (aka Swing) have been cut from the high school baseball team for the third year in a row, and it looks like Noah's love interest since third grade, Sam, will never take it past the "best friend" zone. Noah would love to retire his bat and accept the status quo, but Walt has big plans for them both, which include making the best baseball comeback ever, getting the girl, and finally finding cool.



Option 4: *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison

Set in the author's girlhood hometown of Lorain, Ohio, it tells the story of black, eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove. Pecola prays for her eyes to turn blue so that she will be as beautiful and beloved as all the blond, blue-eyed children in America. In the autumn of 1941, the year the marigolds in the Breedloves' garden do not bloom. Pecola's life does change- in painful, devastating ways.

AP 11: Language & Composition

Required text: *Thank You for Arguing*, 3rd edition by Jay Heinrichs

This text is available for purchase or from libraries. If you cannot find a copy, it's online [here](#); however, the first edition has problematic language and should be used ONLY as a last resort.

Optional texts: This AP test assesses, in part, how well you read. It's in your best interest to spend time this summer reading. However, since it's been such a crazy year and a half, we encourage you to read the books that most relax and engage you. If you'd like recommendations, here are some titles students have enjoyed in the past:

Becoming by Michelle Obama: A memoir by the former first lady of the United States.

Educated by Tara Westover: A memoir of a young woman escaping conservative, Christian, separatist family.

The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore: Moore examines both his life and that of another boy with the same name, both from Baltimore

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer: The true story of a young man who travels to Alaska, fleeing modern comforts.

12th Grade Summer Reading Assignments

English 12 Standard

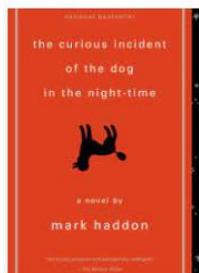
Rising 12th graders in the Standard level course are encouraged to participate in *optional* summer reading. Students may choose a text from the list of options below. Students may read their selected text as an eBook or audiobook version. Students who participate in this optional summer reading assignment will be presented with an opportunity to earn extra credit in the first quarter

- *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer (nonfiction)
- *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell (nonfiction)
- *Funny in Farsi* by Firoozeh Dumas (nonfiction)
- *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls (nonfiction)
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot (nonfiction)
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon (fiction)
- *Shout* by Laurie Halse Anderson (fiction)
- *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison (fiction)
- *1984* by George Orwell (fiction)
- or a student-selected short story available through one of the following podcasts: [The Writer's Voice](#) or [LaVar Burton Reads](#)

English 12 Honors

Directions: Students should read **ONE** of these texts and will be asked to show their understanding of that text by the end of quarter one.

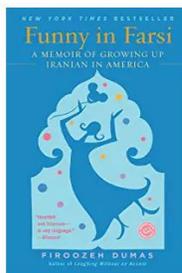
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is a novel that shows a young protagonist's journey from childhood to adulthood, immaturity to maturity, with a focus on the trials and misfortunes that affect his growth. Christopher's goal in the novel resembles that of many teenage protagonists in coming-of-age stories: to

become independent and find his role in the world.

Funny in Farsi by Firoozeh Dumas



The American journey of Dumas's wonderfully engaging family: her engineer father, a sweetly quixotic dreamer who lost his job during the Iranian revolution; her elegant mother, who never fully mastered English (nor cared to); her uncle, who combated the effects of American fast food with an army of miraculous American weight-loss gadgets; and Firoozeh, who encountered a second wave of culture shock when she met and married a Frenchman, becoming part of a one-couple melting pot.

AP 12: English Literature & Composition

1. All students should read Thomas Foster, *How To Read Literature Like a Professor* (PDF: <https://mseffie.com/assignments/professor/How%20to%20Read%20Literature%20like%20a%20Professor%201st.pdf>)
2. All students should read ONE of the following:
 - a. Nadine Gordimer, *My Son's Story* (apartheid South Africa with allusions to Shakespeare)
 - b. Gloria Naylor, *Mama Day* (revisioning of *The Tempest* by a woman of color)
 - c. Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea* (prequel to *Jane Eyre*)
 - d. Daniel Mason, *The Piano Tuner* (much indebted to *Heart of Darkness*)
3. All students can expect to read the following texts during the course (tentative list):
 - a. Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*
 - b. Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
 - c. Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
 - d. William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
 - e. Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*